

CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 18 of 1896.

REPORT

62

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 2nd May 1896.

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LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
BENGALI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Banganivasi" ...	Calcutta	5,000	26th April, 1896.	
2	"Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	20,000	25th ditto.	
3	"Banijya Darpan"	Ditto	.....	
4	"Hitaishi" ...	Ditto	800	28th ditto.	
5	"Hitavadi" ...	Ditto	About 4,000	24th ditto.	
6	"Kumari Patrika"	Ditto	.....	
7	"Mihir-o-Sudhakar"	Ditto	2,500	25th ditto.	
8	"Navayuga" ...	Ditto	.....	25th ditto.	
9	"Sahachar" ...	Ditto	About 500	22nd ditto.	
10	"Samay" ...	Ditto	3,000	24th ditto.	
11	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto	3,000	25th ditto.	
12	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto	800	27th ditto.	
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Banga Vidya Prakashika"	Ditto	350		
2	"Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika."	Ditto	1,000	26th to 30th April, 1896.	
3	"Samvad Prabhakar" ...	Ditto	1,250	24th, 27th, 30th April, 1896.	
4	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto	200		
5	"Sulabh Dainik" ...	Ditto	Read by 3,000	24th, 25th and 28th to 30th April, 1896.	
HINDI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	2,000	23rd April, 1896.	
2	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	10,000		
3	"Uchit Vakta" ...	Ditto	.....	
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Dainik Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	5,000		
PESSIAN.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Hubbul Mateen" ...	Calcutta	.....	20th April, 1896.	
URDU.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide."	Ditto	310	23rd April, 1896.	
2	"General and Gauhariesfi"	Ditto	330	23rd ditto.	
BENGALI.					
BURDWAN DIVISION.					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura	450		
2	"Ulubaria Darpan" ...	Ulubaria	700		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan	About 250	21st April, 1896.	
2	"Chinsura Vartavaha" ...	Chinsura	550	26th ditto.	
3	"Darsak" ...	Ditto	.....	
4	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly	1,145	24th ditto.	

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
BENGALI.					
<i>Monthly.</i>					
1	"Ghosak" ...	Khulna	350		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...	Murshidabad	826	22nd April, 1896.	
2	"Murshidabad Pratinidhi" ...	Berhampore	200		
3	"Pratikar" ...	Ditto	603	24th ditto.	
URDU.					
<i>Monthly.</i>					
1	"Brahma" ...	Cuttack	160		
2	"Indradhanu" ...	Ditto	.....	
3	"Shikhabandhu" ...	Ditto	.....	
4	"Utkalprabha" ...	Mayurbunj	.....	
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Sambalpur Hitaishini" ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....	
2	"Samvad Vahika" ...	Balasore	190		
3	"Uriya and Navasamvad" ...	Ditto	309		
4	"Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack	480		
HINDI.					
<i>Monthly.</i>					
1	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipur	500		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Aryavarta" ...	Dinapur	1,000		
URDU.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Akhbar-i-Al Punch" ...	Bankipur	500	2nd and 9th April, 1896.	
2	"Gaya Punch" ...	Gaya	400	20th April, 1896.	
BENGALI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bagura Darpan" ...	Bogra	.....	
2	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi	195	22nd April, 1896.	
3	"Rangpur Dikprakash" ...	Kakina, Rangpur	180	16th ditto.	
HINDI.					
<i>Monthly.</i>					
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika." ...	Darjeeling	500		
BENGALI.					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Kasipur, Barisal	244		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Churn Mihir" ...	Mymensingh	900	20th April 1896.	
2	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca	2,400	26th ditto.	
3	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Do.	About 440	25th ditto.	
4	"Vikrampur" ...	Lauhajangha, Dacca	240	23rd ditto.	

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Dacca Gazette"	... Dacca ...	500	27th April, 1896.	
BENGALI.					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Tripura Prakash"	... Comilla ...	700		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Sansodhini" ...	... Chittagong ...	120		
BENGALI.					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Paridarshak-o-Srihattavasi"	ASSAM. Sylhet ...	.....	Chaitra, 2nd fortnight, 1302 B.S.	

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

THE Murshidabad Hitaishi of the 22nd April says that rowdyism goes on day and night at the toddy shop situated at Rowdyism in a toddy shop in Jhatnala in the Murshidabad district on the road between Khagra and Cossimbazar, and the passers-by are often roughly handled. It is hoped that the police authorities will keep a constable near the shop to prevent the oppression of those who travel by that road.

2. A correspondent of the *Samay* of the 24th April complains of the conduct of the Howrah police. On the 11th April

Oppression by the Howrah police. last, a man, Baishnav by caste, opened a *panpar* shop in Howrah on the occasion of the Charak

festival. A constable came to him and demanded his "*huq*," i.e., his share of the *panpar*. The man refused to give anything, and the constable threatened him with the loot of his shop and went away. Soon after a gang of *gundas* and the constable appeared on the scene and *looted* the poor man's shop. That this *loot* was instigated by the police was clear from the fact that a basket belonging to the shop was seen in the hands of a constable. Acting upon the advice of a gentleman, the man went to the *thana* to lodge a complaint. There the man was confined and an enquiry was held. He was asked to identify the offending constable in the dark, and was not given the advantage of a light. The man was consequently compelled to withdraw his complaint. It is to be hoped that Mr. Samuels, Chief Inspector of Police, Howrah, will institute an inquiry into the alleged misconduct of the Howrah Police.

3. The *Sanjivani* of the 25th April has the following:—

Cooly-recruiting abuses.

A gentleman of position in Kurigram in the Rangpur district writes as follows:—

On the 13th April last, a Sonthal cooly on board a steamer bound for Assam killed his son and wounded his wife and two other persons with a *dao*. He was at once arrested and brought up for trial before the Subdivisional Officer of Kurigram. The prisoner made the following statement:—

"We left our home on the understanding that the man would find out for myself and my wife posts on a monthly pay of Rs. 8 and Rs. 5 respectively. At Goalundo the man wanted us to come on board the steamer, and on my refusing to go any further, he threatened me with a drawn sword. This led me to think that the recruiter wanted to kill me first and then take possession of my wife and son. This thought was unbearable to me, and I determined to kill my wife and son and drown myself in the river. I killed my son and then wounded my wife. I do not remember whether I injured any other person or not."

From this statement it is quite clear that the prisoner, his wife and son were being sent to Assam against their will. The man is apparently 30 years old. His wife, who was in a precarious condition, has died.

The above letter of the correspondent, observes the editor, relates a shocking incident. Its perusal, almost drives one mad. How long, we are led to exclaim, will this inhuman practice, this cruel law, remain in force in Bengal? It was certainly tormenting pain which made the poor cooly lose his self-control and mortally wound his wife and son. Finding no other means of escape from the clutches of the wily recruiter, he sought escape in death. How long, we ask again, will this cooly trade remain in force in Bengal? We have been asking this question these 12 years. The Government tried to redress the grievances of the coolies, but to no effect. The cooly trade will not be effectually put an end to so long as the Cooly Act of 1882 will remain in force. Sir Alexander Mackenzie has in many acts given proof of highmindedness, justice and kindheartedness. We draw his attention in all humility, to these harrowing pictures of human misery. We appeal to his kind heart, and ask—Will he, too, remain deaf to the piteous cries of the poor coolies?

A gentleman from Narainganj writes as follows:—

On the 15th April last, when the steamer bound for Cachar reached Narainganj, some of the passengers told me and my friends that among the coolies on board the steamer there was a Bengali woman who was evidently

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
April 22nd, 1896.

SAMAY,
April 24th, 1896.

SANJIVANI,
April 25th, 1896.

being sent to Assam against her will. She was disconsolate and in great distress. We went on board the steamer with the Police Sub-Inspector. Our presence assured the woman, and she related the circumstances under which she was recruited. The woman is a widow aged 25 years. Her father's house is at Bally. Her mother is dead. One Kshetra, who was in the habit of going to her house, told her one day that if she went to Calcutta he would find out a comfortable post for her in a gentleman's house. Lakshmi (that is the name of the woman) was thus induced to go to Calcutta with Kshetra, and was lodged in the house of one Suryya Adhikari, where she lived comfortably. After four or five days Suryya Babu told Lakshmi that he was going home, and instead of leaving her alone in Calcutta, he would take her with him. Lakshmi was induced to accompany her master. At Sealdah, a European, asked her if she was going to Silchar. She answered that she did not know; she was going with the Babu. "Silchar is a good place," replied the European "what is your name?" Lakshmi told him her name, and her reply evidently did duty for a contract or agreement. The Babu, however, made himself scarce, Lakshmi thinking that he was in another compartment. When the train reached Goalundo and the Babu did not appear, Lakshmi came to know where she was going. She began to cry, but the recruiters threatened her and kept her in a place which was not likely to attract the notice of any passenger. Her cries, however, reached the ears of several passengers, who assured her that they would try to save her from the clutches of the recruiters. This enraged the latter, and they did not allow any passenger from coming near her again. At Narainganj, while we were talking with the cooly woman, a peon abused and insulted us. The Doctor Babu ordered his peons to catch any one who should come near the coolies by the ear and take him to his presence (কুলিদের নিকট যে ঘাইবে, তাহকে কান পাকারকে লে আও). Upon this some of the peons came towards us in a threatening attitude and we were compelled to beat a retreat. The name of the steamer is *Falcon*, and we hear that the Doctor Babu's name is Nisikanta Chakravarti of Raipura in Vikrampur. Chandra Kumar Datta, a passenger on board the steamer, assured us that he would bring the matter to the notice of the Magistrate of Silchar. I cannot say what has happened to the woman since.

This is how coolies are recruited and sent to Assam. For 14 years we are dinging the grievances of the coolies into the ears of the Government, but with no effect. There is an Embarkation Agent at Goalundo, and it would be impossible to press a cooly into service if he conscientiously did his duty. We have nothing more to say, but we again ask the Government—How long will men be bought and sold like beasts?

(b)—Working of the Courts.

PRATIKAR,
April 24th, 1896.

4. The *Pratikar* of the 24th April says that the Government's recent orders requiring a certain amount of money security to be taken from every tauzi muharrir will cause great hardship to a class of officers who are very poorly paid. One-fourth of the pay of every such muharrir will be kept back by Government every month till the entire amount of the security is made up. And as such muharrirs receive very small salaries, Rs. 20 or so, they must find living with family in town extremely difficult. Again, one fails to understand why clerks who are entrusted with no money transactions on behalf of Government should be required to give security. If by tauzi muharrirs is meant those clerks who are employed in the Collectorate tauzikhana, it is clear that they have nothing to do with money transactions. The late Magistrate of Murshidabad required similar security to be taken from every muharrir employed in the Road Cess Department, though road cess muharrirs have to deal only with *chalans* and passes and have nothing to do with money.

They represented their circumstances to the District Magistrate, and prayed that they might be either exempted from the operation of the security rule, or permitted to give security in landed property or any other form except money. But the prayer has been rejected because it was made very late.

5. The *Hitavadi* of the 24th April writes :—

Babu Nilmani Das, who should have been promoted to the second grade of Subordinate Officers. The High Court and the promotion of Subordinate Judicial Judges some time before, has lately been promoted to that grade. Those incarnations of justice and experience, the High Court Judges, for reasons best known to themselves, then thought Babu Nilmani undeserving of promotion, and promoted Babu Shamchand Dhar over his head. No one, however, knew Babu Shamchand to be a better officer than Nilmani Babu. But what of that? The former's stars were then in the ascendant. He had influential English Barristers to back him, and the High Court Judges are most inattentive to their work. What wonder then that Babu Shamchand should be promoted? The Bengal Government, however, at first refused to accept the High Court's recommendation in favour of Babu Shamchand Dhar, and called upon it to explain its recommendation. Greatly nettled, the High Court Judges took a dislike to poor Nilmani Babu, and determined to carry their point by hook or by crook. So they set about looking for something which would turn against him, and after a long search lighted upon the record of a report by a District Judge against that officer. But there is a mystery in this connection. We are informed, we know not with what truth, that the report recorded against the name of Babu Nilmani was, as a matter of fact, a report made against Babu Nabinchandra Ganguli; and as Babu Nilmani's name stands next to that of Babu Nabinchandra on the list, the report was by mistake recorded against the former's name. The High Court shut its eyes to the fact and forwarded to the Bengal Government some adverse remarks against Babu Nilmani. If Nilmani Babu is an incompetent officer, how is it that the High Court has promoted him within a month of the reporting against him? Will the prestige of the High Court be increased by such acts of injustice? Such injustice in connection with promotion has become more frequent of late in that Court. The other day Babu Chandicharan Sen was appointed a Subordinate Judge over the heads of 10 or 12 able officers, although only a year or so ago he had a very bad name as an officer. Indeed, the High Court repeatedly censured him, and once even degraded him 16 places below his proper place. Will not this injustice in connection with appointments be remedied? We have still much to say about the Appointment Department of the High Court.

6. The same paper has the following :—

Mr. Morshead again. It was only the other day that Mr. Morshead earned a notoriety by attempting to influence a Subordinate Honorary Magistrate, Mr. Maseyk, in the trial of a case. Here is another act of the same officer not a whit less serious.

Mr. Sambala and Akshay Sarkar are the owners of two rival cooly depôts at Purulia. The latter recruited a cooly, named Buddha Ganda, and got him to sign an agreement. But in spite of this, Bhikma, a chuprasi of Mr. Sambala, entrapped Buddha by the promise that he would send him home. Seeing Buddha in the clutches of Mr. Sambala's men, Jadunandan, a servant of Akshay Sarkar, tried to detain him. At this stage, Mr. Casey, an Assistant of Mr. Sambala, made his appearance. Jadunandan told Mr. Casey how the matter stood, but the latter, instead of attending to Jadu, gave him a slap on the face. Soon after Akshay Sarkar appeared on the spot, and there was fighting between the two parties, which terminated in the police taking Buddha under their custody.

But the matter did not end here. Mr. Casey and Akshay Sarkar instituted cross proceedings before Mr. Morshead, and their depositions were taken. An episode in connection with the main action should be told here. On the day the depositions were taken, all the seats in Mr. Morshead's Court happened to be occupied by pleaders and mukhtars, and when Mr. Sambala came, he could not be accommodated with a chair. Mr. Morshead told the lawyers to make room for Mr. Sambala. The pleader on behalf of Akshay Sarkar respectfully represented to Mr. Morshead who and what he was, and said that he could not make room for Mr. Sambala. This enraged Mr. Morshead, who told the pleader that he and no other should make room for Mr. Sambala. The pleader had no alternative but to obey Mr. Morshead's peremptory order. The order which Mr. Morshead passed after hearing the depositions was most surprising.

HITAVADI,
April 24th, 1896

HITAVADI.

At that stage of the proceedings there was no formulated charge on either side, and all that Mr. Morshead had, therefore, to declare was whether or not there was a *prima facie* case, and whether the suits could be entertained. But Mr. Morshead went out of his way to draw a picture of the occurrence which was most pleasing to his own fancy, and laid the whole blame for it at the door of Akshay Sarkar and his men, and directed a subordinate Deputy Magistrate, Babu Nabinkrishna Banerjee, to try the case.

Mr. Morshead must be very unfortunate, for even explicit orders like these were not obeyed by his Subordinate Honorary Magistrate or his Subordinate Deputy Magistrate. His superior's hint did not make Babu Nabinkrishna, who is a just and independent officer, swerve from the path of rectitude. He passed a just order in the case, the concluding words of which we cannot help quoting :—“ The Court on the whole finds that there was rather forbearance on the part of Akshay Sarkar. There was no unlawful assembly, and the accused are all entitled to acquittal. The Court must say that all this is due to the improper conduct of Mr. Casey, which probably does not amount to an offence, and that there should be no further case in connection with this matter.”

We now ask the Lieutenant-Governor whether he will not find anything to blame in Mr. Morshead's action in this connection too : or will a nominal censure be deemed sufficient ? What is the good of censuring an officer upon whom censure has apparently no effect ? Mr. Morshead has offended the public by his conduct, and disgraced the judicial bench by his partiality to his countrymen. His conduct also furnishes one example of interference by Magistrates with the judicial independence of their subordinates. Government ought to punish Mr. Morshead, if only to check this evil. We hope that Sir Alexander Mackenzie will not fail to do justice this time.

BANGAVASI,
April 25th, 1896.

7. The *Bangavasi* of the 25th April does not see the good of the recent Government circular forbidding whipping to be administered in public. Whipping will henceforth

be administered in prisons in private. The circular has satisfied the political agitators, but its utility is doubtful. Administered in public, whipping might serve as a corrective. Public officers are not also likely to venture upon administering it unlawfully in public, as they may do in private.

BANGAVASI.

8. An Honorary Magistrate of Howrah, says the same paper, convicted three Hindu zanana ladies of a petty offence, and fined two of them forty rupees each, and the third fifty rupees. The last-mentioned accused could

not pay the fine, and was imprisoned for one month. The punishment appears to be too heavy. Honorary Magistrates ought to know their country well, and the officer in question has done wrong in heavily punishing three zanana ladies. It is a pity that natives of this country should in this way forget themselves when raised to the bench.

SANJIVANI,
April 25th, 1896.

9. The *Sanjivani* of the 25th April publishes the following from a correspondent :—

An Honorary Magistrate of Krishnagar.

Mulla Khodadad Khan, zamindar of Bamun

Pukhuria, a village near Krishnagar, is an Honorary Magistrate. On the 24th March last he reported to the District Magistrate that Raso Bagdini and Chuku Bewa were found selling rotten fish in the Bamun Pukhuria bazar. He also recommended that the two fishwomen should be prosecuted under section 273 of the Indian Penal Code. The Magistrate accordingly prosecuted the fishwomen, and sent them up for trial to Mr. B. K. Basu, Senior Deputy Magistrate of Krishnagar. The following statement was made by Raso Bagdini, one of the defendants in the case :—

I was selling fresh and not rotten hilsa fish in the Bamun Pukhuria bazar when Sobha Musalmani, a maid servant of Mulla Khodadad Khan came to buy fish. She wanted to buy a fish at a very cheap price, and on my declining to sell her the fish at the low price proposed, she went away in anger, threatening me all the way with the visitation of her master's wrath. Soon after came two peons of the Mulla Sahib to arrest me and take me to their master. I refused to go, and they went away. Then came the Mulla Sahib himself, who charged me with selling rotten fish and threatened me with punishment for my alleged offence. The fact, however, was that I sold no rotten fish. The

fish I sold were all fresh, and a medical practitioner of that place, who was not likely to buy rotten fish, had bought one of them.

It is not an easy matter to unravel the mystery of this case. The Mulla Sahib himself, strange to say, engaged two mukhtears to conduct the prosecution. He also made a deposition, from which the following facts are gathered:—(1) There are two markets—a *hat* and a bazar, in Bamun Pukhuria. The *hat* belongs to the Khan Sahib and the bazar to one Kaji Sahib of the same village. It is quite clear that the Khan Sahib will be very glad to see the bazar given up and his own *hat* prosper. (2) He heard from Sobha Musalmani that the defendant was selling rotten fish. Sobha Musalmani is not one of his regular servants. She is in the habit of doing his errands from time to time. (3) It is true that he had sent two peons to the bazar, but he sent them not to arrest the defendant, but to ascertain whether the complaint against her was true, and, if true, to prevent her from selling rotten fish. (4) When he himself came to the bazar, the defendant did not answer his questions. This offended him. (5) The report which he made to the Magistrate and which was written in English was drafted by another person. The Honorary Magistrate's definition of the words "decomposed" and "noxious" made the whole Court laugh. "I mean by 'decomposed,'" said he, "କୁଣ୍ଡ ଖାଇଲୁଣ୍ଡିଲୁଣ୍ଡି, i.e., when the fish is divided into parts. When I saw the two fishes in the defendant's basket, they were not divided into parts, but one lying a few inches apart from the other." In another part of the deposition we read:—"Then, said the two fishes were lying divided into parts, then said no, I said this by mistake. They were lying entire." The Mulla Sahib's deposition betrays his ignorance of English, and it may strike one as strange how he manages to write his reports and judgments in English. Those who are in the secret, however, know how the Honorary Magistrate's judgments and reports are written. In his deposition the Mulla Sahib admitted almost all the facts stated by the defendant, and he certainly cut a very sorry figure in his attempt to construe the word "decomposed" so as to serve his purpose best.

The defendant cited witnesses who all deposed that the fish sold by her were not rotten. One of them was a medical practitioner, who deposed that he had tried to convince the Mulla Sahib that the fish were fresh, but he did not hear him, and went away without even examining the fish. There was thus no case against the defendant, and she was acquitted.

Let the public judge how a man, who does not know the meaning of the word "decomposed," can write a judgment or a report in English. It is to be hoped, however, that the authorities will keep a sharp look after this Honorary Magistrate. In his Court it has become almost impossible for the mukhtears to successfully compete with those rivals who may happen to be on the side of the men who write out reports and judgments for the Honorary Magistrate.

10. The same paper has heard reports against Mr. Balthazar, a Magistrate

Mr. Balthazar, Deputy Commissioner, Cachar. with first class powers in Cachar. Mr. Balthazar has a Khasia woman in his keeping, for whose sake

he does not even hesitate to go against the law.

Some time ago Babu Jagat Chandra Das, senior Extra Assistant Commissioner, Cachar, had to try a case in which a Khasia woman was the complainant. Mr. Balthazar's Khasia mistress was cited as a witness in the case, and was in due course summoned to appear before the trying Magistrate. But the Deputy Commissioner's mistress is a big personage, and it was not likely that she would submit herself to the indignity of appearing in a public Court. Mr. Balthazar sent the Court Sub-Inspector to the Extra Assistant Commissioner, ordering him to examine the said witness in the Deputy Commissioner's bungalow. This the Extra Assistant Commissioner plainly declined to do.

That Mr. Balthazar has a Khasia woman in his keeping is notorious in Cachar. Is the Government not aware of this? In Burma miscarriage of justice became rife on account of the European Judges and Magistrates keeping Burmese mistresses. Sir Alexander Mackenzie put down that vice with a high hand and condignly punished the delinquents. Will Mr. Balthazar go unpunished? The attention of the Home Member and of the Chief Commissioner of Assam should be drawn to the conduct of this Deputy Commissioner.

SANJIVANI,
April 25th, 1896.

SANTIVANI.
April 25th, 1896.

11. Referring to the case in which one DeCosta, a guard on the Northern Bengal State Railway, was charged with an attempt to outrage the modesty of a female passenger, the same paper observes that the fine of Rs. 75 inflicted on the accused by Mr. S. C. Mukharji, Joint-Magistrate of Nator, is a punishment too inadequate for the offence. The guilt of the accused was proved by the evidence of eye-witnesses who were perfect strangers to the complainant, and could therefore have no motive in saying anything that was not true. There is also no gainsaying the fact that the complainant could not have possibly falsely charged a European with an offence which was likely to compromise her honour. It is difficult to understand why the Joint-Magistrate punished the accused so lightly. In similar cases he not long ago sentenced accused persons to imprisonment for two or three months.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 30th, 1896.

Conviction of two ticca gharry drivers in the Calcutta Police Court.

12. Referring to the case in which two ticca gharry drivers were fined Rs. 5 each by Nawab Ameer Hossein for asking for more than their legal fare owing to the excessive heat, the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 30th April does not see why poor ticca gharry

drivers alone should be liable to punishment, when the Tramway Company, who have reduced their service and suspended the issue of transfer tickets, escape scot free. The excessive heat of the weather was certainly a proper excuse for the drivers to refuse to hire out their conveyances on the ordinary fare. It was cruel of Dr. Sarvadhikari to prosecute the men, and unjust of the Magistrate to convict them. The law, too, which permits such conviction, is defective.

(d)—*Educations.*

SULABH DAINIK,
April 24th, 1896.

The case of a candidate at the last B. A. Examination.

13. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 24th April draws the attention of the Registrar of the Calcutta University to the case of one Devaki Nandan, a student who appeared at the last B. A. Examination from the Free Church Institution. The boy was plucked for one mark in Sanskrit, although he passed in Physiology with 82 marks and with second class honours in English (178 marks). Such strictness did not certainly look well in an Examiner in Sanskrit, who in his own work on grammar mentions “*मन्त्रकाम देवः देहि*” as an illustration of the dative case.

HITAVADI,
April 24th, 1896.

Securing of aid for a Brahmo educational institution by improper means.

14. The *Hitavadi* of the 24th April has heard that some Brahmo worthies are trying to secure from a zamindar of Rangpur a contribution of Rs. 25,000 in aid of their educational institution by holding out to him the inducement of a title from Government. If the matter proceeds further, the writer will be obliged to publish the names of both the parties. Whether this comes of the doctrine of liberty, equality and fraternity is a problem which the writer, with his poor spiritual lights, will not presume to solve. But superstitious idolator as he is, he must say that it is a trade at once new and lucrative.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
April 25th, 1896.

The condition of the Calcutta Madrassa.

15. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 25th April writes as follows:—

The followers of other religious creeds can form no idea of the mental perturbation which Musalmans undergo when the smallest interference is made with anything that concerns their religion. The Musalmans of Bengal have lost their wealth, honour and even self-respect, but they retain a firm faith in their religion. The conduct of a few self-styled leaders of the community, enlightened by western education, is, however, going to undermine even that faith. The Calcutta Madrassa, which is still regarded by the whole Muhammadan community of Bengal as the chief centre of Muhammadan education in these provinces, is now a perfectly worthless institution. Its external appearance has been made more and more attractive, but its inside is full of ugly, festering sores and ulcers. Some time ago, the condition of the Madrassa was made the subject of criticism in this paper, and the writer will soon return to the subject.

16. Referring to the whipping of two Uriya princes by Mr. Hallward, Principal, Ravenshaw College, Cuttack, the *Sanjivani*,

Mr. Hallward and the Uriya Princes. *Sanjivani* of the 25th April observes that, according to the Indian Penal Code, when whipping is to be

administered to a juvenile offender, it should be inflicted with a rattan on the palm of his hand. But these Uriya princes were whipped by Mr. Hallward like hardened and grown up criminals. Their mother has complained to the Commissioner of the Orissa Division of the conduct of the Principal of the Ravenshaw College, and the public is anxious to know what punishment the Lieutenant-Governor administers to him.

17. Referring to the proposal to appoint a whole-time Registrar for the Calcutta University, the *Bangavasi* of the 25th April observes that,

The whole-time Registrar question. *Bangavasi* of the 25th April observes that, if that body has got a superfluity of money, they will do well to reduce the rates of the examination fee instead of appointing a whole-time Registrar on increased pay. The charm of English education is not going to be soon dispelled, and the less costly it is made the better.

18. Babu Upendra Lal Bhattacharyya complains in the *Sulabh Dainik* of the 25th April that the Government grant of Rs. 55 to the Prannath school, Satkhira, in Khulna,

has been discontinued. The correspondent insinuates that the aid has been discontinued because Rai Radhika Prasanna Mukharji Bahadur, Inspector of Schools, Presidency Circle, was, on the occasion of his recent visit to the school, not satisfied with the dinner with which he was served by the school authorities. The Rai Bahadur, it is said, plainly gave vent to his dissatisfaction. "Why," he asked, "have not good arrangements been made for my dinner? Do these men know nothing about what is done in other schools? Do they not know that the Head Master of the Taki School makes preparations on a liberal scale for my dinner?" The school is ably conducted, and there seems to be no valid reason to justify the discontinuance of the aid. It is to be hoped that the higher educational authorities will do justice to the Satkhira school and ensure its stability by restoring the Government grant.

19. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 26th April writes as follows:—

Decay of *gurubhakti*.

According to the *sastras* Hindu students should not only live with their teachers, but also serve them. The injunction is still obeyed in the *tols*, but it is not respected in our schools and colleges. This is easily accounted for. While in the past, Brahmans alone were the teachers of all castes and classes, education is now received at the hands of teachers who are not necessarily Brahmans. Even a Brahman student now-a-days receives his education from a non-Brahman teacher. Such a student is bound to show his teacher respect, but he ought not to serve him. A non-Brahman teacher is not also entitled to the *bhakti* which is due to a Brahman teacher. This has made all the difference in the *gurubhakti* of the present race of students, though of course, the western idea of equality has also largely contributed to bring about the unhappy result. Indeed, *gurubhakti*, as shown in ancient times, is a thing that is gone and will not be revived. All that teachers should expect from their pupils now is not *bhakti* but *basyata* (submission). But submission, without *bhakti*, being something that does not proceed from the heart, cannot last long, and has to be forced upon the student. The sad change has been due entirely to the introduction of English education in the country. The English rulers, who have brought about this change, are now themselves seeking for a remedy, and have hit upon hostels for students as one. The establishment of hostels is, accordingly, being encouraged everywhere. The Eden Hostel has been in existence for some years, and now the Government of Bengal is building another near it at its own cost. It is, however, still a moot point among Hindus whether they should allow their sons to live in hostels. We do not know whether caste is strictly observed in these hostels, but we feel that it must be very hard of observance where high caste and low caste live together. We do not also know what facilities are given to Hindu students in the hostels to perform their daily worship. As a rule we are opposed to Hindu students living in hostels, and it is a matter for consideration whether a hostel managed by Government will not be more unsuitable to Hindu students than private hostels.

SANJIVANI,
April 25th, 1896.

BANGAVASI,
April 25th, 1896.

SULABH DAINIK,
April 25th, 1896.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR CHANDRIKA,
April 26th, 1896.

(c)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

CHAU MINI,
April 20th, 1896.

20. The *Charu Mihir* of the 20th April cannot say whether the zamindars would be willing to make over their tanks to the District Boards gratis. Their view of the matter is that the Boards, which levy the road cess, should supply water. The question of the proprietary right in the tanks after their re-excavation by the Boards also stands in the way of the removal of the water difficulty. But the sufferings of the people have grown so intolerable that an early solution of the question has become imperative. The zamindars should agree to sell the tanks to the District Boards at small prices, and the latter should purchase them as they purchase land for making roads.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
April 22nd, 1896.

21. A correspondent of the *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 22nd April complains that there are not a sufficient number of conservancy carts, wheel-barrows and sweepers in the Murshidabad Municipality. In Acharyyapara, where cholera has been committing great havoc filth and sweepings remain accumulated in the lanes. In all the quarters in which there has been an outbreak of cholera, the drains should be cleansed at least twice a day and should get more disinfecting powder or liquid. The insanitary condition of the municipality is mainly due to want of supervision by the superior officers. The Vice-Chairman and the Chairman never go out to see, and the members of the Ward Committees neglect their duty because they are not heard.

SULABH DAINIK,
April 24th, 1896.

22. A correspondent of the *Sulabh Dainik* of 24th April complains of water scarcity in Satkhira in the Khulna district, the water of the tank owned by the zamindars being unfit for use, and the tank which was excavated by the municipality last year at a large cost being situated at too long a distance from the town to be of much use to the residents, even if it had much water left in it. It is hoped that the authorities will have two or three wells dug for the relief of the sufferers.

PRATIKAR,
April 24th, 1896.

Water scarcity in Satkhira in the Khulna district.
23. The *Pratikar* of the 24th April asks if the authorities keep an eye on the condition of the pounds after they have been farmed out. There is a rule requiring pound inspection, but is that rule ever carried into effect? The sheds in which impounded cattle are kept are generally without thatches, and the poor animals are therefore exposed to all the inclemencies of the weather. There is also no provision made for fodder or water. The farmers of pounds having their eye solely on money making and being, almost as a rule, non-Hindus, are seldom influenced by any humane considerations. It is absolutely necessary that better provision should be made for pound inspection.

PRATIKAR.

24. The same paper is glad to learn that Maharaja Sir Jotindra Mohan Tagore, Bahadur, is exerting himself to remove water scarcity in his zemindaris. If the Lieutenant-Governor can similarly induce every zamindar to make provision for water-supply for his raiyats, water scarcity will be completely removed without its becoming necessary for the Government to trouble itself in the least in the matter. There are many zamindars yet in Bengal, and these men, if not harassed in various ways, can still look after the welfare of their raiyats. The officials ought to know that the zamindars, who are bound to pay every respect to Government, will regard its requests as orders, and comply with them accordingly.

The Government should see that the zamindars re-excavate all the tanks which they hold *khas*. This will not in the least inconvenience the zamindars. No pressure should be put upon any zamindar. Persuasion of rich zamindars is all that is required. It looks very bad for rich people to put large sums into the Dufferin Fund while their own raiyats are suffering from scarcity of water. The Sub-Inspectors in charge of thanas or the village panchayats may be required to prepare lists of the villages containing silted up tanks, showing the names of the owners of such tanks, and the Magistrates may, after that, request the zamindars concerned to re-excavate.

25. A correspondent of the *Samay* of the 24th April expresses dissatisfaction at the election of Babu Ramgopal Munshi as Chairman of the Ranaghat Municipality in the place of Babu Surendranath Pal Chaudhuri, deceased. The new Chairman is not likely to take much interest in municipal affairs. The sanitation of the town is in a bad state. The lanes and drains emit a sickening stench, and cholera is carrying away three or four victims every day. The municipal authorities are quite apathetic and are not showing half the zeal and energy that they did last year in checking the progress of the epidemic.

SAMAY,
April 24th, 1896.

26. The *Hitavadi* of the 24th April has the following:—

It is certainly great kindness and generosity in the Lieutenant-Governor that he has expressed sympathy with the sufferings of the people from water scarcity, and has, with a view to the removal of that scarcity, not only promised contributions from the State, but called upon the District Board and well-to-do people to render help in the matter. But his sympathy is likely to do little practical good, for his order may not be acted upon after all.

At a time when people are at the point of death for want of drinking water, the question has arisen as to whether road cess money can be properly spent in digging tanks and wells. This is not the time to discuss such a question. If Government forgets its responsibility and its promises, we are bound to remind it of them, and if the officials do not choose to hear us, there is no help for it.

The Lieutenant-Governor appealed to the District Boards for help. His Secretary, Mr. Risley, has appealed to rich zamindars and others as well as to able-bodied cultivators and labourers. But Mr. Westmacott, the Commissioner of the Presidency Division, has outdone all other officers. He has issued a secret circular to the District Magistrates under him, which we quote *in extenso*, because many people refuse to take such papers as genuine if they are not given in full. If any officer is offended by its publication in a newspaper, we cannot help it:—

The 13th April 1896.

TO ALL MAGISTRATES—

The excessive drought of the present season has brought prominently to notice the deficiency of the supply of drinking water in a great part of this division. As regards municipalities, the question may be left in the hands of Municipal Commissioners, but as regards rural villages, it appears to me that all that can be done in the estates of Wards of Court, and all that can be done by the District Boards is insignificant in view of the vast requirements of the country. The only means by which an adequate supply of drinking-water can be obtained in all the villages which require it is by the villagers bestirring themselves and doing their own work. There are probably in every village a number of men who are accustomed to use kodalee on their own holdings, and one or two days' labour of such men would deepen a tank which has dried up sufficiently to obtain water or at least to prevent it drying up in future years; and it appears to me unreasonable that road cess money should be spent on digging for the benefit of the people who are in the habit of digging, and who could do the work for themselves if they chose to exert themselves. Where water cannot be obtained by deepening old tanks, and where wells are necessary, a District Board might make grants in aid of contributions made by villagers, and where there is difficulty on account of proprietary right in placing an old tank at the disposal of villagers for the purpose of deepening it, the District Board might come to their assistance in the matter of acquiring the tank for a public purpose. It appears to me that for every village in which the District Board undertakes the whole cost of re-excavating an old tank, there must be scores of other villages to which the Board is unable to extend any help at all, and unless the villages to which the Board is unable to extend any help can be stimulated to help themselves, and if they are allowed to sit idle calling out to the Board for help which cannot be given to them, all those villages must remain without drinking water. I request the favour of your laying this view of the question before your District Board and asking them to consider how the people can be stimulated to help themselves as far as possible,

HITAVADI,
April 24th, 1896.

and how the assistance of the Board can be limited to cases in which the people are really helpless.

E. V. WESTMACOTT.

Mr. Westmacott thinks it unreasonable that Road Cess money should be spent on digging tanks or wells for those who are able to dig. But this is not all. The kind hearted gentleman insists upon the importance of inculcating lessons of self-help upon the people. He says that labourers should dig tanks for two days in the week without taking anything, zamindars and other rich people supporting them during such work. And those villages which will not help themselves in this way must go without water; how very kind is the Commissioner!

Did anybody ever hear such a lecture on self-help? Let those who require no roads for themselves pay a cess for the construction of roads for the benefit of other people, but none must dig or have tanks dug either for the benefit of those who can ply the spade themselves! They must not get water even to quench their thirst! What kindness this! Such is the shape which Government's kindness has assumed on coming down to the Commissioner. Who knows that the Magistrates will not be able to improve even upon this? It is, however, a comfort to know that there are not many civilians of Mr. Westmacott's type in this country.

In conclusion, we would like to know whether the instructions to be followed are those given in Government's circular of the 18th instant or those given in Mr. Westmacott's circular of the 13th.

BANGAVASI,
April 25th, 1896.

27. A correspondent of the *Bangavasi* of the 25th April complains that, while municipal taxation has been abolished in Nanduarha, it has not been abolished in Raghunathpur. Of these two villages in the Manbhum district, the former is much better off than the latter. The tax presses heavily upon the poor weavers of Raghunathpur. These men formerly lived by weaving *tussar* silk, but their occupation is gone with the destruction of that profitable industry. The small weaving which they now do is not sufficient even to keep body and soul together. It is impossible for them to pay municipal taxes, and their moveables—the little property they possess—are often attached by the municipality and sold by public auction. Raghunathpur is not a fit place to be burdened with a municipality.

BANGAVASI.

28. The same paper is surprised to learn that the ashes in the Calcutta burning ghats are carted away to the Salt Lake and deposited there. The ashes—the remains of the dead—are looked upon as sacred by all pious Hindus, and the Hindu inhabitants of Calcutta should strongly protest against this objectionable practice, this sacrilege, this desecration of the remains of the dead. The Calcutta Municipality should take prompt measures to put an end to this highly objectionable practice, and its new Vice-Chairman, in whom all orthodox Hindus have great confidence, should be up and doing.

BANGAVASI.

29. The same paper is glad to understand that the British Indian Association has appointed a committee to enquire into the nature and extent of the prevailing water scarcity and to find out its remedy. Sir Maharaja Jotindra Mohan Tagore has already made up his mind to remove the water scarcity prevailing in his extensive zamindari. It is to be hoped that all other zamindars, headed by Maharaja Durga Charan Law, and his brother Babu Joygovinda Law, will follow the noble example set by the prince of Bengali zamindars. It is now worse than useless to quarrel with the Government over the road and public works cesses, and to try to have a fair portion of them spent on the improvement of water-supply. This is time for action and not time for political agitation and wrangling—especially when the people of this country have no right to compel the Government to follow the line of policy which commends itself to them. It is true that the Bengal zamindars have become impoverished of late, but there are among them many who still waste their money on frivolous enjoyments. That most of the zamindars do not dig or redig tanks and wells is not because they have no means to do so, but because they are not disposed in that way, their charitable instincts having become deadened. It is edifying to see that the exhortation of the

Lieutenant-Governor has awakened them to a sense of duty. Let the zamindars be up and doing in removing water scarcity. They should no longer patiently look on when their raiyats are suffering. Let them shake off their apathy and indifference.

30. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani* of the 25th April complains of the conduct of the ijaradar of the Godagari ferry ghat on the Padma. The ijaradar extorts double the fare from ignorant coolies and even four times the fare from innocent Sonthal coolies. The correspondent knows an instance in which the ijaradar extorted double the fare from thirteen coolies.

Extortion at a ferry ghat.
Water scarcity in the 24-Parganas district.

31. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 25th April requests Babu Suryya Kanta Rai Chaudhuri, B.A., zamindar of Taki in the 24-Parganas district, to re-excavate the tanks in his zamindari which were excavated by his worthy father, the late Srikanta Rai Chaudhuri. The writer also draws attention to the severe water scarcity prevailing in certain villages within the jurisdiction of the Baduria thana in the same district. The only tank in Mahmudpur which supplied drinking water not only to that village but to a large number of adjoining villages is silted up and becomes dry at the end of every cold season. Babu Upendra Nath Bose, zamindar of Arbelia, ought to deepen the tank. The District Magistrate should request Upendra Babu to do this.

32. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 26th April says that when the road and public works cesses were imposed, people understood that the proceeds of the road cess would be expended solely upon the construction of roads, and the proceeds of the public works cess upon water-supply and works of a general character which would benefit the cess-payers. But Government has not been able to keep its word, for it has spent the proceeds of the public works cess in a manner which has not in the least benefited the people. Government's law courts punish the zamindar who makes his raiyats contribute towards the cost of constructing a cutcherry, but where will the Government itself be tried for spending public works cess money on the construction of court-houses which were formerly built out of revenue? This trial can be held nowhere except in the heart of the people.

Section 109 of the Road Cess Act legalised the expenditure of the Road Cess Fund upon the construction of roads, canals, &c., but did not permit its use in education, &c. The Local Self-Government Act placed additional duties upon the local bodies which it created, but it also gave them additional funds for the performance of the additional duties. But English being the language of the District Boards and the Magistrates being all in all there, independent men keep themselves aloof therefrom, and their money is spent as the Magistrates like. If the members of the District Boards had been free in the matter of expenditure, they would certainly have considered water-supply a more legitimate use of their money than either construction of roads or spread of primary education. Want of roads and schools does not kill men, but drinking of foul water positively does.

Sir Alexander Mackenzie is to be thanked for issuing his Circular No. 22 L.S.-G., dated the 2nd April, in spite of the attempts of the District Boards to conceal the sufferings of the people from water scarcity. It is to be hoped that as Chairmen of the District Boards, the District Magistrates will not out of jealousy for the Lieutenant Governor's popularity, overdo their work by wasting money even in places where there is no water scarcity.

The advice given in the Lieutenant-Governor's letter No. 1284L., addressed to the Commissioner of the Orissa Division, that the District Boards should spend road cess money mainly on roads and water-supply is good, but it will take the Boards some time to follow it; for educational expenditure has so grown upon them that it will be sometime before they can be able to reduce it. Sir Charles Elliott advised the District Boards to spend at least 10 per cent. of their income on the spread of primary education, and some boards largely exceeded this limit in order to please His Honour. In 1894, the Dacca District Board, for instance, spent as much as forty-one thousand rupees, besides office expenditure, that is to say, about 30 per cent. of its income on primary education. Where will Boards find money for water-supply?

SANJIVANI,
April 25th, 1896.

MHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
April 25th, 1896.

DACCA PRAKASH,
April 26th, 1896.

BANGANIVASI,
April 26th, 1896.

33. The Banganivasi of the 26th April understands that the Government has recently issued a circular requiring the Calcutta Municipality to cart away the ashes in the Calcutta burning ghats to a place called the "square mile"

near the Salt Lake. The circular has already been given effect to, and the sacred remains of Hindus are being desecrated and deposited in the filthy "square mile." Strange to say, the Hindus are still indifferent in the matter. What are the Hindu Commissioners of the Calcutta Municipality, who pride themselves on their orthodoxy, doing? It is simply cowardice on their part to tolerate this sacrilege. The Municipality should carry these ashes in a steamer to the Bay of Bengal and deposit them there. Babu Nilambar Mukharji, the new Vice-Chairman, should see to this.

BANGANIVASI.

34. The same paper says that there is great scarcity of water in Baganchra, a village in Santipur, in the Nadia district.

Water scarcity in Santipur. The Bagdevi canal is the only source of water in the place. But there being no *bandh* at its mouth all its water finds its way into the Hooghly. The village is in the zamindari of the Maharaja of Krishnagar, but he is quite indifferent to the suffering of the people and did not grant their prayer for the repairing of the *bandh*. It is gratifying, however, to understand that Mr. K. C. De, the able Subdivisional Officer of Ranaghat, is trying his best to have the *bandh* repaired.

BANGANIVASI.

35. Sir Charles Elliott, observes the same paper, lost his head over his drainage scheme and did not care for water-supply.

Water scarcity in Bengal. Sir Alexander Mackenzie, however, has happily discovered that scarcity of water is at the root of the insanitary condition of the country—that construction of drainage may wait, but water-supply has become an urgent necessity. The Lieutenant-Governor is moving heaven and earth to increase the Lady Dufferin Fund, but he will enshrine his name in the heart of the people if he opens a water fund.

The Bengal zamindars can do a great deal to remove water scarcity. It is true that the moral and material condition of the landed classes in Bengal has greatly deteriorated, but there is still no denying that they have means to give the little help which the Government expects from them in removing water scarcity. British law has in a large measure destroyed the prestige of the zamindars, but even now the influence exercised by them and their officers among the masses of the Bengal population is very great. Rightly directed, this influence can be exerted in the cause of water-supply. Water scarcity can be easily removed if the zamindars and their men take the lead and do their best in the matter.

DACCA GAZETTE,
April 27th, 1896.

36. The Dacca Gazette of the 27th April has the following:—

The zamindar's duty in the water scarcity. The day is past when, thanks to Lord Cornwallis' Permanent Settlement, the zamindars of Bengal were a rich class and considered it an act

of religious merit to spend money on works of public utility, like tanks, &c. The policy of Government has changed, and the zamindars have now to pay more money on cesses than they pay as revenue. The rigour of the Tenancy Act in particular has completely alienated the feelings of the zamindars from their raiyats. Zamindars now-a-days do not care whether their raiyats live or die, provided they regularly get their own rents. Sir Alexander Mackenzie may appeal to the zamindars in the name of religion to take once more to their old way of excavating tanks, but the old religious sentiment will not be revived. Not even religious acts are done without a selfish motive. Why should the zamindars do a religious act for the sake of their raiyats whom they no longer regard as their own flesh and blood, as they did before? Let the Lieutenant-Governor exhort as best he can, no man can have the same regard for the life of another as he has for his own. So long, in fact, as the gulf created between the zamindar and the raiyat by the Tenancy Act is not bridged over, so long must the raiyat despair of any help from the zamindar, and the zamindar refrain from asking any help, if occasion arise, from his raiyat.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 27th, 1896.

Mr. Westmacott and the water scarcity.

37. The Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika of the 27th April says that some good will certainly be done if all Magistrates and Divisional Commissioners zealously and sincerely carry out the Lieutenant-Governor's orders regarding

water-supply. If the letter which the *Hitaradi* has published as Mr. Westmacott's, be a genuine document, then it must be clear that that officer is doing his best not to carry out the Lieutenant-Governor's instructions. Mr. Westmacott has advised the Magistrates under him not to spend much money on water-supply, and has told villagers either to dig out their own water, or die for want of it. Probably the inhuman letter is some naughty officer's contrivance, made with the view of playing a joke with the *Hitavadi*, which is so fond of publishing official secrets. Such hardness of heart, as is seen in the letter, is not expected even in Mr. Westmacott and under Sir Alexander Mackenzie's rule.

The Lieutenant-Governor has not been content with merely writing a Resolution or making a speech on the necessity of water-supply, but has asked all District Magistrates in the Burdwan, Rajshahi, Patna, Bhagalpur and Presidency Divisions to make exhaustive reports about water scarcity within their respective jurisdictions and the steps that have been taken by the District Boards to remove it. His Honour has asked the Sub-divisional Magistrates to offer the District Boards every help in their power in collecting information regarding water scarcity as well as in removing it. Wells are to be excavated everywhere, and water is to be sent even in carts to villages which are situated at a distance from good reservoirs. The District and Local Boards should exert themselves to their utmost, for the suffering is greater in rural than in municipal areas. And the people themselves should not remain idle, but form Committees for water-supply in every village throughout the Province. The greatest religious merit will be obtained by giving away water in a time like this.

Many suburban villages near Calcutta and Howrah are suffering from water scarcity. The best way to relieve them will be to ask the Calcutta and Howrah Municipalities respectively to fill a number of tanks in these villages from their main pipes, payment being made from subscriptions among the villagers and from local funds.

38. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 29th April has the following:

Government and the Calcutta Municipality.

In his last resolution on the Annual Administra-

tion Report of the Calcutta Municipality, Sir Charles Elliott took the Municipal Commissioners and their Chairman to task for reasons better known to him and the Governor-General in Council, who acquiesced in the opinion of the late Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. Mr. Ritchie, late Chairman of the Calcutta Municipality, gave, on the eve of his retirement, a crushing reply to the fault-finding resolution of Sir Charles Elliott. He did his duty well by defending the Commissioners against the aspersions cast on them, aspersions which have justly met with the disapprobation of the Calcutta public.

The conduct of the Municipal Commissioners and their Chairman has met with the unqualified approbation of the Calcutta public. By the Calcutta public we mean the native and not the European residents of the City of Palaces. Anglo-Indian opinion may carry greater weight with the Government, and may in official quarters pass current as "public opinion." But it is not, in all conscience, the opinion of the Calcutta public—it does not represent even a small fraction of the rate-payers of the Calcutta Municipality. The number of European residents in Calcutta is infinitesimally small compared with the number of native residents. The Europeans have, so to speak, no permanent stake in Calcutta. It is not they but the native residents who have to bear the lion's share of the burden of taxation. In the opinion of these men, in the opinion of the native public, that is, waste of municipal money is a sin. The Government and the Anglo-Indian public may not be in that line of thinking.

The counts of indictment against the Calcutta Municipality are the following:—(1) the Municipality has not done all that could be or ought to have been done to improve the sanitary condition of Calcutta, (2) there is a laxity in the collection of municipal rates, (3) the Municipality does not adequately encourage primary education in the metropolis, (4) *busti* improvement has not kept pace with the time.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 29th, 1896.

Let us examine these counts one by one—

(1) As regards the first count, there can be no gainsaying the fact that the health of Calcutta is gradually improving. Calcutta of to-day is, from the sanitary point of view, much better than Calcutta of ten years ago. It is impossible to satisfy the Anglo-Indian demand for sanitary improvement. You cannot turn the metropolis into paradise in one day. But Anglo-Indian opinion and obstinacy must have their way. When the "added areas" were amalgamated with Calcutta, Dr. Gurudas Bannerji and Babu Kalinath Mitra protested against the measure in the Legislative Council. But they were plainly told, even by a quiet peace-loving Lieutenant-Governor like Sir Steuart Bayley, that in the matter of sanitary improvement it was Anglo-Indian opinion which must prevail. Native opinion must necessarily be at a discount.

But it is not the Anglo-Indian residents who suffer. Birds of passage, they live in this country only for a short time, and go away after making their fortunes. The Calcutta Municipality and the Government never agree in the question of the expenditure of municipal money. The Municipal Commissioners are always opposed to extravagant expenditure upon which the Government always insists. The Calcutta Municipality cannot afford to be extravagant. It is nothing more or less than the trustee of the Calcutta public. And it will be guilty of a breach of trust if it makes ducks and drakes of their money. The Government is extravagant in its expenditure. It spends the whole of its revenue on frontier fortifications, on Home charges, on the army, and on the Civil Service. For internal improvement, it has consequently to depend upon subsidiary sources of revenue. While the Government spends its revenue for "imperial purposes," the District Boards and municipal bodies must take charge of the roads and other communications, and must find money for a thousand and one objects upon which the Government cannot and will not spend anything. The Government's is a *spendthrift* policy, and it will force that policy upon all the self-governing bodies. "Tax and spend" seems to be its motto. The people are fairly crushed, and their life-blood is being sucked out of them. But the Government has still no mercy. It wants the District Boards and municipal bodies to work miracles. It must have the towns and cities turned into paradise. This the self-governing bodies are not prepared to do, and hence their quarrel with the Government. Mr. Ritchie was a conscientious Chairman and he could not allow the hard-earned money of the poor tax-payers to be thoughtlessly spent. All conscientious Chairmen cannot but act as he did. Mr. Williams has a trial before him.

(2) As regards the second count, the Calcutta Municipality is far from being lax in its collection of municipal rates. In the first place, the municipal assessment is unfairly heavy, and there is hardly any remedy available against it. The municipal procedure for the collection of rates is strict enough, almost as strict as the sunset law of the Government for the collection of the land revenue. The municipal tax-collector is unrelenting in his demand. He does not tolerate any default in payment. Sharp takeeds, notices, warrants and distress warrants come in quick succession if a tax-payer fails to pay his tax in time. In fact, the procedure followed by the Calcutta Municipality beats, in point of severity, the Irish process of collecting land revenue hollow. But the Government wants the Municipality to be more exacting, more oppressive and withal more strict in its collection of rates. The Commissioners, however, cannot go so far without creating public discontent. They can never agree with the Government, and they should be allowed to remain satisfied with the approbation of the public.

(3) The third count against the Calcutta Municipality is that it does not adequately encourage primary education. The money of the tax-payers of the Calcutta Municipality cannot and ought not to be spent on primary education. The Government is curtailing its expenditure on the head of education, and has enjoined the District Boards to liberally spend their revenue for this purpose. You cannot call this financial policy a benevolent policy. It is, to use a somewhat strong expression, a deceitful policy. If the people are to be separately taxed for this and that measure of public utility, why raise so many crores of rupees as public revenue from among them? No Municipality ought to be burdened with educational expenditure. The Calcutta Municipality need not spend a farthing on education. Education, high and primary, is

making rapid strides in Calcutta without any extraneous help, and it does not stand in any need of help from the Municipality.

(4) One's own experience will go against the indictment that *bustis* improvement in Calcutta has not kept pace with the time. Since 1854, Calcutta is steadily improving in this respect, and if improvement goes on at this speed, the slums of Calcutta will be soon purged of their accumulated filth of years. The Anglo-Indians would have *bustis* clean abolished. There are some among them who cite the instance of the great London fire and its after-effects which not only changed the face of London for the better, but improved its sanitary condition a good deal. The Kidderpore fire has been to many Anglo-Indians a cause of rejoicing, and perhaps there are not a few among them who wish in their heart of hearts that Calcutta may be destroyed by a great fire, so that it may be rebuilt in an ideal fashion. But the foolish native residents of Calcutta persist in clinging to their old-fashioned ideas. It is worse than useless to waste more words on the subject. The Government and the people will never agree in municipal matters. It is no wonder, therefore, that the Municipal Commissioners of Calcutta and their Chairman should be reprimanded by the Government for the very acts which have met with the approbation of the public.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation:*—

39. India, says the *Bangavasi* of the 25th April, is going to be covered with a net-work of railways. The Government ^{Spread of Railways in India.} has resolved to construct feeder lines which will run far into the interior of the country, while the construction of main lines will be pushed on with greater speed. The wealth of India, you may now depend upon it, will be drained away and her people will get trinkets in exchange for food grains.

BANGAVASI,
April 25th, 1896.

(h)—*General.*

40. The *Charu Mihir* of the 20th April says that no where in Bengal have food articles been so dear as they have been for some time in Mymensingh town. Betel-leaves in particular are selling at the rate of three per pice, and this is owing to the impression which people still labour under that the betel-leaf monopoly, which was so long kept up by the zamindar has not ceased to exist. This wrong impression should be removed.

CHARU MIHIR.
April 20th, 1896.

41. The *Hubbul Mateen* of the 20th April does not see why the Musalman ^{Cow-slaughter in Rangoon.} residents of Rangoon should be prohibited from slaughtering cows in a certain quarter of the town, when the Burmese and the Chinese are permitted to slaughter pigs and sell pork, which is forbidden food both to Hindu and Musalmans, all over the town. As the prohibition may lead to a fresh riot during the celebration of the *Bakr-Id* this year, the Government should carefully consider the petition of the Rangoon Muhammadans against the order.

HUBLUL MATEEN,
April 20th, 1896.

42. Referring to a memorial submitted to Government, protesting against the proposed removal of the Burdwan Commissioner's office to Chinsura, the *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 21st April makes the following observations:—

BURDWAN SANJIVANI
April 21st 1896.

It is only ten or eleven years that the office of the Commissioner of the Burdwan Division has been located at Burdwan. The question of removing it to Hooghly has been raised from time to time, but Government has not hitherto attached any weight to the arguments urged in favour of a removal. This time a new argument has been put forward in support of the proposed removal. The Superintending Engineer lately inspected the Commissioner's office building, and reported that it was not in a safe condition. So long, however, the Superintending Engineer has been recommending the office building as quite fit for habitation, and it is somewhat mysterious why he has suddenly changed his opinion. The only thing that goes against the building is a slight hair-breadth crack in an arch in a hall, which becomes visible only in the summer, when it is excessively hot. This crack cannot in any sense be regarded as a

source of danger. It does not take one long to understand that there being no valid reason in favour of the proposed removal, it has been tried to make much of a very small matter.

A removal of the Commissioner's office to Chinsura will not save the Government any expenditure. The Government will have to maintain the building and periodically repair it. The building was formerly the circuit-house and if the Commissioner's office is removed, it will become circuit-house again. It will be presumptuous to question the Superintending Engineer's opinion, but as his opinion appears to be somewhat suspicious, the Lieutenant-Governor will do well to have the building inspected by another competent Engineering authority.

Removal will cost the Government no less than one thousand rupees. It will also cost the Government seven or eight hundred rupees a year for seven or eight years in sorting and arranging the papers. There is no reason why the Government should incur this heavy expenditure.

BHARAT MITRA,
April 23rd, 1896.

Government's action in regard to Japanese noblemen to the temple of Buddha-Gaya having aroused in the mind of the Government

the fear that the continuance of Buddha's image in the temple might afford foreigners pretexts for coming to India in large bodies, ostensibly with the object of visiting the temple, but really with some political motive, Mr. Savage, Magistrate of Gaya, has written to Mr. Dharmapal, requesting him to remove the image. But a removal of the image being calculated to wound the feeling of the Buddhists, Government should not insist upon such a course, but should keep a political Officer as well as a Military force in Buddha-Gaya.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
April 25th, 1896.

NOTE 44. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 25th April has the following in an article headed "Dire anarchy in the British Empire":—

Oppression and discontent in Chittagong.

There is great difficulty and disadvantage in connection with the administration of India. England enjoys representative Government. Any irregularity or wrong doing on the part of the administration in England is strongly and at once protested against by the people, and vehemently denounced in the newspaper press, and the result is that the ministry find themselves compelled to render an explanation to the country. The English people make political agitations, and know perfectly well what such agitation is, how it should be conducted, and what results it may be made to yield. They are therefore always agitating. If an English ministry cannot satisfy the electors, the latter have it in their power to drive it out. But the people of India do not know what political agitation is. You may impose upon them tax after tax and commit upon them oppression after oppression, but they will not protest. They know not what the utility of the newspaper is, and they are ignorant of the importance of memorials. They only know their Queen-Empress and think: "We are loyal subjects of the Queen Empress, and it is for Her Majesty to take thought of our welfare, to find out if any oppression is being anywhere committed upon us. This should be her occupation, as it is clearly her duty." Thus it is that even when Government commits any oppression, they bear it in silence, and think that Her Majesty will surely enquire about it and apply a remedy, that they should patiently bear it for a few days, and wait for justice, which she will certainly do. While such are the views of the Indians, the sovereign and her ministers think differently. In their opinion the Indian administration is completely free from faults and shortcomings. If it had been otherwise, people would have protested. The people think that their sovereign will do them justice, the sovereign thinks that the people will cry out and protest. But the people cry not, and the sovereign, on her part, does not do justice. Herein lies the difficulty and disadvantage of the Indian administration. There is no touch between the sovereign and her subjects. The people do not care to know or learn anything about their sovereign, and she, on her part, takes no trouble to make herself acquainted with their affairs, or she would have come to learn that for the last fifteen years dire anarchy has prevailed in Chittagong, one of the districts of the Bengal Presidency, the most advanced portion of British India. Is our Government aware that this district has now been for the last

fifteen years burning in an unseen smouldering fire? Haroun-al-Raschid, it is well known, used to go on secret tours in disguise at night through his dominions for the purpose of making himself acquainted with the views and grievances of his subjects. Enlightened European statesmen of the nineteenth century may laugh at this. But there is no other way in which in India a ruler can keep himself informed about the real grievances of the subject-people; and it is precisely because some such method has not been yet adopted by Government that the officials have not become aware of the continued prevalence of various oppressions in Chittagong. It will send a thrill of horror through the heart and make one weep to hear of the fearful oppressions that are now being practised in that district. God in his mercy will surely check these oppressions if no redress by man be forthcoming. The English Government itself will have to bear this load of sin, if, according to Christian notions, it be possible for a sovereign to incur sin.

We have received an elaborate account of those oppressions, and decided upon publishing it in this paper in instalments. It will probably take more than two years to complete the account, even if a portion of it is published every week. The first chapter, in relation to the Court of Wards Department, will appear in our next number. Government and the public will then be enabled to see the true state of matters, concealed as it is, year after year, by the rose-coloured description given in the Administration Reports.

45. The *Bangavasi* of the 25th April understands that Mr. Heard, Sub-divisional of Deoghur, is trying his best to get The Native Doctor of Deoghur. Babu Banikantha Bandyopadhyaya, the experienced and popular native doctor of that place, transferred to some other station. Mr. Heard suspects that Banikantha Babu was the man who wrote against him in the newspapers. The Deoghur people will be very sorry to part with their doctor Babu, and they have petitioned the Government against the proposal of his transfer. The public will not in any way be benefited by the transfer of Banikantha Babu, and the authorities will do well to grant the prayer of the Deoghur people.

46. The same paper thanks the Lieutenant-Governor for the prompt measures he has taken to prevent the spread of cholera, but fears that after this there may be attempts made in some quarters to hush up outbreaks of epidemics. The fear of incurring expenditure leads many public officers to hush up famine, and the same reason may henceforth lead them to hush up cholera and other epidemics.

47. Referring to the appointments to the Kalihati and Kedarpur Sub-Registrarships in the Tangail subdivision of the Mymensingh district, the *Sanjivani* of the 25th April asks why Babu Syamacharan Das, B.A., one of the candidates selected by the Magistrate, was found unfit for the post by the Inspector-General of Registration. In what respect is he inferior to the Musalman candidate who has been appointed?

48. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 26th April says that after deducting all expenses, the Zamindari Dak Fund in the Dacca district has a surplus of Rs. 19,000. The District Board of Dacca was invited to consider what

The Dacca Zamindari dak cess fund. should be done with this money, and the Board formed a Committee consisting of three of its members to consider the matter. The Committee has submitted its report, and has advised the establishment of 17 additional post offices in Bhawal and Maheswardi. But this will only increase expenditure without bringing in commensurate profits. The money should be held over for the present, and a dak cess at the present rate of two rupees per hundred rupees of Government revenue being levied for two years more, the rate of the cess should be reduced to four or six annas per hundred rupees of revenue. Already the Dacca district contains too many post offices. The area of Dacca is 2,782 square miles, and it contains 120 post offices; whilst Mymensingh, with an area of 6,332 square miles has got only 129 post offices, Faridpur only 81, and Backergunge only 76.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

49. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi*, of the 22nd April, says that the existing provision of the law, that any body whose property is sold by Government by public auction, except for arrears of revenue, may redeem it by depositing within 30 days from the date of sale the whole amount of purchase-

BANGAVASI,
April 26th, 1896.

SANJIVANI,
BANGALORE.

SANJIVANI,
April 25th, 1896.

DACCA PRAKASH,
April 26th, 1896.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
April 22nd, 1896.

money, together with a commission of 10 per cent. thereupon, is undoubtedly advantageous to the defaulter whose property is sold; but it seriously inconveniences the auction-purchaser. The latter is given no notice of the making of such deposits by the defaulter, and he does not know of it till he comes to transact some business in connection with the property he has purchased. In the second place, the compensation of 10 per cent. given to the purchaser does not cover the trouble and expense he is put to in getting back his purchase-money. Suppose a man has purchased a property at Rs. 30. If the defaulter redeems the property, he pays Rs. 30 plus Rs. 3 as commission. But, in order to get back his purchase-money, the auction-purchaser must make an application at a cost of 8 annas 3 pies, engage a mukhtear, under an *ammukhtarnana* at a cost of Re. 1 (because an ordinary *mukhtarnama* is not recognised in Collectorates) and pay the mukhtar a fee of Rs. 2. Here is a sum of Rs. 3-8-3, which, with his personal expenses will swell to Rs. 5 or Rs. 6. He thus loses Rs. 2 or Rs. 3 for no fault of his own. If this defect in the law is not remedied, no one will purchase property at Collectorate sales. Government should make a rule requiring the Collectorate nazir to give information to the auction-purchaser concerned the moment a defaulter makes a deposit and to return the purchase-money to the auction-purchaser on his own receipt, the cost that will be incurred in so doing being recovered from the defaulter. Such a rule should be made at least for the cases in which the amount of purchase-money is small.

HITAVADI,
April 24th, 1896.

50. The *Hitavadi* of the 24th April is gratified by the assurance given by the Lieutenant-Governor that he has no intention of disallowing interpellations in connection with the budget. People feared that His Honour would disallow such interpellations on the strength of the practice in the Viceregal Council. His Honour's assurance has now quieted their apprehensions.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

SULABH DAINIK,
April 25th, 1896.

51. Babu Kanti Chandra Mukherji, observes the *Sulabh Dainik* of the 25th April, is the Prime Minister of Jeypur. His power and influence in the State are very great. In fact, he is there the lord of all he surveys. He is not, however, popular in Jeypur, as Babu Nilambar Mukerji was in Kashmir. Public opinion in Jeypur is not always in favour of the Prime Minister. He is blamed by many, it may be out of spite and jealousy. But there are instances to show that he does not treat the subordinate officials well. Babu Haridas Sastri, late Principal of the Jeypur College, was his eyesore, but that gentleman had the Political Agent to back him, and was therefore safe. After the Sastri's death a Parsi graduate was appointed Principal, but he did not agree with Kanti Babu and had to resign. A B.L. Professor of English had to resign his post for the same reason. An under-graduate is now the Principal of the Jeypur College. Lately, a Hindustani gentleman, formerly in the service of the Government of India, was appointed by the Jeppur State. One day the Prime Minister did not agree with him and insulted and dismissed him at once. The injured official reported the matter to the Governor-General's Agent in Rajputana, and that officer has called for an explanation from the Maharaja. If this incident gives rise to any disagreement between the Maharaja and the Supreme Government, Kanti Babu alone will be held responsible for it.

SANJIVANI,
April 25th, 1896.

52. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani* of the 25th April says that Ajmere and other stations on the railway by which the Jhalwar as a state prisoner. Jhalwar Chief travelled to Benares as a State prisoner were thronged with people of all classes longing for a sight of him. But the Maharana did not appear before them. Many applied to the European officer in charge of the Maharana for permission to see him, but that officer advised the Jhalwar Chief not to grant them an interview. Benares station was thronged with people. As soon as the Maharaja alighted, he was conducted with great courtesy and honour to the carriage which was waiting for him. Both banks of the river were thronged and the people lustily cheered the Maharana as he passed by.—“Glory to the Maharana; long live the Maharana”—was the cry which rent the sky. If Lord Elgin had been there he could have formed some idea of the Maharana's popularity.

SANJIVANI,
April 25th, 1896.

53. The same correspondent fails to unravel the mystery of the Bhurtpur deposition. The Maharaja of Bhurtpur was only a short time ago deposed on the ground of incapacity. He has been reinstalled and declared to be quite fit for administration.

Inscrutable are the ways of the Political Agents! There are no creatures on earth more fickle-minded than they. No light can penetrate the dark recesses of the Foreign Office and no one can say why the Maharaja of Bhurtpur was deposed. Lord Ripon returned the Gwalior fort to Scindia in exchange for the Jhansi Pargana. The Maharaja of Bhurtpur has been reinstalled, but the Digh pargana has not been returned to him. There is, by the way, a rich salt mine in Digh. Might not there be some connection between Digh and the deposition of Bhurtpur?

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

54. The *General and Gauhari Asfi* of the 23rd April says that the premature death of Sir Jahan Kader Meerza, a distinguished member of the Oudh Royal Family, has cast a gloom over the Muhammadan community of

The death of Prince Sir Jahan-Kader Meerza.

GENERAL AND
GAUHARI ASFI
April 23rd, 1896.

India, and has deprived the Government of a valuable adviser. Many public bodies, too, will miss the Prince's helping hand. It will not be too much to hope that Government will show the same tender regard to Meerza Mukeem, the lamented Prince's son-in-law, as it showed to him. The Prince has left a large fortune in landed property and money. It should be the duty of Government to see that this wealth is not wasted.

55. *Hitavadi* of the 24th April says that a peon of the Account Department of the Port Commissioner's office, named Nasiruddi, has been dismissed for having come to office

The Port Commissioner's office.
in dirty cloths. As a matter of fact the peon's clothes were not very dirty, but then he had incurred the displeasure of his superiors. The peon has served long in the office, and ought not to have been dismissed for his offence. If his case is not reconsidered, the writer will have to make further disclosures in this connection.

56. The same paper says that Mr. Radice, who incurred the censure of Government by his conduct in Orissa, has begun playing a new prank in Tippera.

Mr. Radice's new prank.
When staying for sporting purposes at Sonamora within Hill Tippera from 26th March to 9th April, he made use of a tethered cow as a bait for tigers. It is said that on coming to know of this, the Maharaja of Tippera has adopted stern measures against the recurrence of such a thing. It is not possible for anybody but a Hindu to conceive the enormity of an act like that of leaving a tethered cow to be devoured by tigers in a Hindu State. Mr. Radice is the Political Agent of Hill Tippera. It is not easy to understand what has led him to wound Hindu feeling in this way. Does he believe that a Political Agent can do anything he pleases? It is hoped that the kind-hearted Lieutenant-Governor will soothe the wounded feelings of the Hindu subjects of Tippera by doing justice in the matter.

57. Referring to the prohibition of the sale of native confectionery in certain mercantile offices in Calcutta, the *Bangavasi* of the 25th April asks—Is this an indirect attempt to push on the sale of European confectionery, and thereby to facilitate, though unwillingly, the denationalisation of Hindus?

HITAVADI,
April 24th, 1896.

HITAVADI.

BANGAVASI,
April 25th, 1896.

PARIDARSHAK-O-SRIHATTAVASI,
Second fortnight of Chaitra, 1302 B.S.

Prohibition of the sale of native sweet-meats in mercantile offices.
58. Referring to the increase in the mortality in the Assam jails in 1894, the *Paridarsak-o-Srihuttavasi*, for the second fortnight of Chaitra, 1302 B.S., complains that the Administration Report does not, as it ought to have done, furnish statistics of jail mortality for the last ten years. The authorities do not give any explanation of this increase in the jail mortality, but it may have some connection with the falling off in the expenditure on account of jail fooding—a falling off so large that it cannot be explained by the cheapening of the prices of food-grains, which is stated in the official report to be the only cause of the decrease in the expenditure on account of fooding in the Assam jails. The mortality in Sylhet jail is said to be the highest—higher than in any other jail in Assam. This is somewhat strange, considering that the climate of Sylhet is as salubrious as that of any district in Bengal.

59. The same paper has the following in English :—

The Provincial Service in Assam.
in Assam. It is, as we have already observed, a service counting among its members only a few Extra Assistant Commissioners. Whether the service so poorly

PARIDARSHAK-O-SRIHATTAVASI,
Second fortnight of Chaitra, 1302 B.S.

constituted should have received the dignified title of "the Provincial" in what we do not care to discuss. All that we are concerned with is its efficiency and usefulness. If we intend to advert to the subject to-day again, it is because Baba Shambhu Narayan has of late retired therefrom on pension, and if we are rightly informed, the vacancy so created has yet to be filled up. We know there are lots of candidates—candidates from the bar, candidates from the Subordinate Civil Service, candidates from among the Europeans and Eurasians. We propose to discuss in the course of this article the relative merits of the candidates mentioned above and belonging to these three different classes. Let us take the case of the Europeans and Eurasians first. They are generally recruited from among the ministerial officers, and the people serving in that most unpopular branch of the public service, *viz.*, the Police. They receive there no judicial training so essential for the due administration of justice. Rightly or wrongly the people have a sort of dread for the Police, and any elevation to the bench from among them is invariably looked upon by the general public with distrust and suspicion. The experiment of appointing Europeans in the Subordinate Executive Service has also signally failed in Bengal, and it is not likely that it should succeed here. To illustrate what we mean we have not far to seek. Mr. Anley, who was a temporary inspector in the Punitive Police Force, and about whose qualifications we know no more than that his father is connected with Assam administration as a District Superintendent of Police, was appointed an Extra Assistant Commissioner in 1887, has not yet managed to pass in the majority of the subjects prescribed for the departmental examination. Mr. Rita also managed to pass the departmental examination after many unsuccessful attempts. We know the character of these departmental examinations. They are by no means difficult. We think there is a rule in the manual of executive orders in Assam that Extra Assistant Commissioners failing to pass the requisite departmental examination within two years are liable to forfeit their appointments. That rule framed to carry on a great Government should be violated in favour of its individual members, be he a native or an European, is certainly not consonant with justice. Be that as it may, we have no mind to recommend their dismissal from service now. We do not believe that Government will come up to that high standard of moral discipline in a day or two. All that we mean to say is this that this object-lesson should not be lost upon the Government, if they have any regard for the efficiency of the service in question. We are also aware of another rule. It is unnecessary to quote chapter and verse. The Government clearly knows that it has ruled, that all things being equal, the natives will have preference in matters of appointment. The Europeans are by no means natives of the Province. This being the case, the Assam public have a right to demand their admission into service in preference to Europeans. It has also been proved by demonstration that they are also intellectually superior to these so-called Europeans. Let us next consider the claims of the Bar and what is called the Subordinate Civil Service in Assam. People from both these classes have undoubted claims to the Provincial Service. Considering the two-fold duties of a Civil and Criminal Judge which an Extra Assistant Collector has to discharge in Assam, it is essentially necessary that a fair proportion of the appointments should be filled up by the people from the Bar. Of late, Extra Assistant Commissioners were only made from among the Sub-Deputy Collectors, and the claims of the Bar were ignored. This time we appeal to Mr. Ward with his long and varied judicial experience to select a candidate from the Bar, whose practice is fairly well, and let us hope our appeal this time will not fall upon deaf ears.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 2nd May 1896.